

Parking, SCPI top senate's agenda

Three issues dominated the agenda of the University Faculty Senate meeting Oct. 18: campus parking policies, the resignations from the Sign Communication Proficiency Interview (SCPI) committee of faculty who serve as raters of the test and their subsequent rescinding of those resignations, and the use of SCPI results in personnel decisions. President I. King Jordan and Vice President for Academic Affairs Roslyn Rosen addressed these issues at the meeting.

Fully one-third of the three-hour meeting went to the issue of parking, with some senate members questioning Dr. Jordan at length about the planned parking garage and parking fees to go into effect in 1995. Jordan said that he decided to impose the parking fee fully informed by the

Parking Committee that about 70 percent of the faculty and staff were against such a fee. "We calculated the lowest possible fee we could to support the loan [to build the new garage]," he said.

Jordan also spoke about the student rally and protest against campus parking policies held the night of Oct. 14 and continuing into the early morning hours just outside the President's residence. He said that earlier that day, he and Student Body Government President Jon Kovacs had reviewed plans to add additional student parking spaces to the Field House lot. However, that night students demanded spaces near their dorms and complained about the inconvenience and safety of parking at the Sixth Street lot. When Jordan refused to give in to student demands without first consulting with the Parking Committee, the students began drinking, driving cars, and pulling fire alarms, he said.

Faced with the choice of getting the students back to the dorms of their own accord or calling D.C. police, "I decided not to issue any more parking tickets until we had a chance to reconvene," said Jordan. "It was a decision that I hated to make. I still hate the fact that I made a decision that would overrule all the hard work the committee had done, but honestly I'd do it again."

Jordan said that he would meet with Student Development and Department of Safety and Security personnel the next day to discuss how to inform students that their behavior was not appropriate and of repercussions that future behavior such as that would bring.

"I know the students held a protest, and they got what they wanted,

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1993 Faculty Lecture slated

The Gallaudet community is invited to the 1993 Distinguished Faculty Lecture, "Deaf Culture and Deafness as Disability: Can the Twain Meet?", followed by a panel discussion, on Monday, Nov. 1, from 3:30 to 5 p.m. in the upper level of "Ole Jim."

This year's Distinguished Faculty Member Dr. Janet Pray, chair of the Department of Social Work, will present the topic and serve as moderator for the panel.

Panelists will be Dr. Yerker Andersson, coordinator of Gallaudet's ASL and Deaf Studies Program, Jean Mulrooney, assistant professor of psychology, Scott Bally, assistant professor of audiology, Angela McCaskill-Gilchrist, advisor in the Academic Advising Department, and Florence Vold, assistant professor of mathematics at the Northwest Campus. Refreshments will be served.



Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences Robert Williams talks with student Juan Vietorisz at an Oct. 15 reception at Ballard House sponsored by the University's three doctoral programs to bring doctoral students and faculty of different disciplines together.



MSSD science teacher Mary Ellsworth (second left), MSSD Principal Cynthia Bailes, and Vice President for Pre-College Programs Dr. Harvey Corson thank Toshiba America Foundation President John Sumansky for his \$10,000 gift to the school to buy science equipment.

Learning disabilities addressed Oct. 14

Students with learning disabilities are able to succeed in college if they are given reasonable accommodations, according to speakers at a conference on deaf students with learning disabilities held in "Ole Jim" Oct. 14.

Dr. Henry Reiff, professor of Education at Western Maryland College, discussed legal responsibilities colleges have to students with learning disabilities under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Dr. William Stixrud, a local psychologist, gave a presentation on learning disabilities from a neuropsychological perspective.

Students with learning disabilities need colleges to make reasonable accommodations so they can compete on an equal basis, said Reiff. Section 504 and the ADA require that reasonable accommodations be made for people who have disabilities but are otherwise qualified for a job or admission to a college or university, he noted. Gallaudet is required to provide accommodations to students whose learning disabilities vary from difficulties processing written symbols to recalling simple facts automatically, he said.

Typical approaches to assist students with learning disabilities, Reiff said, include modified tests, such as essay exams instead of multiple choice questions. Some students may need more time to complete tests, or may need to take many short exams rather than a few long ones. Sometimes certain assignments, or even courses, need to be substituted or waived. Assistive devices, such as access to a word processor with spell checking capability, are helpful to students.

The law does not protect students who turn down the offer of assistance, Reiff said. "It's their right, but

they can't later claim discrimination."

Dr. Stixrud told the group that linguistic difficulties are the most common form of learning disabilities. Dyslexia, often thought of as a reading disability in which people reverse letters, may actually have a linguistic basis, he said.

Learning disabilities also can include problems processing information, or even difficulty reading body language to tell if someone is teasing or being sarcastic. Other problems interfere with a student's ability to learn math by conventional means. These, however, are less common and have not been researched as extensively, Stixrud said.

Even students with severe learning disabilities can be so brilliant that almost no one realizes they have a disabling condition, Stixrud said. He cited an example of a law student who earned top grades but took several minutes to remember the word "honey."

Also at the conference, Gallaudet students shared their experiences with learning disabilities, and a panel of specialists discussed policies and services for Gallaudet students who have learning disabilities. Concurrent sessions were held on accommodating students with learning disabilities who have difficulty with reading and writing, foreign languages, and math. In addition, "Learning Disabilities in Higher Education," a videotape produced by Georgetown University, was shown.

The conference, which was sponsored by Gallaudet's Task Force on Learning Disabilities and the Faculty Development Committee, was a success, said Harry Markowicz, a member of the task force. "I was very pleased with the symposium," he said. "It met our expectations in terms of sensitizing more people at Gallaudet toward people with learning disabilities."

Gallaudet hosts Kappa Delta Pi event

The Gallaudet chapter of Kappa Delta Pi, the honor society in education for teacher educators and teacher education students, hosted the organization's Eastern Regional Conference on Kendall Green Oct. 16. More than 100 people representing 18 universities attended.

In keeping with the theme of the conference, "Celebrating Diversity," presenters from honor society chapters in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia led workshops on themes relating to working with diverse populations—ethnic, racial, gender, and individuals with disabilities—in the school environment.

The opening presenter was Sharon Mullen, former Idaho State Teacher of the Year and presently a first grade teacher in Fairfax County, Va. She addressed the group on ways to ensure success in the classroom as a new professional.

Dr. Sylvia Walker, director of Howard University's Research and Training Center for Access to Rehabilitation and Economic Opportunity, spoke on the implications of the Americans with Disabilities Act for educators in school settings.

Gallaudet faculty or students led

three of the 10 workshops held during the day. Graduate students Sally Zwickler, Shobha Joseph, and Therese Pierce presented a program entitled "Educational Issues in Working with Deaf Children in the Classroom." Lynn Jacobowitz, an assistant professor in the Department of Sign Communication, led a workshop on deaf culture in relation to diversity. Dr. Barbara Gerner de Garcia, an assistant professor in the Department of Educational Foundations and Research, led a workshop on understanding ethnic diversity in relation to teaching.

Felicia Jones, a secretary in the School of Education and Human Services (SEHS) dean's office, received an award of merit for her long-standing support of Kappa Delta Pi activities. The Gallaudet Dance Company provided a luncheon program for the participants.

Louise Tripoli, a doctoral student in administration, served as chair of the regional conference committee, assisted by students from Gallaudet's programs in education, educational technology, administration, school psychology, and counseling. An additional group of SEHS students and faculty volunteered their time in arranging the conference.



Director of Admissions Deborah DeStefano (left) recognizes Assistant Director Carol Downing for her five years of service to Gallaudet.

Among Ourselves

Dr. Ronald Sutcliffe, associate professor in the School of Management's Business Administration Department, was master of ceremonies for the Miss Iowa Pageant, held during the August convention of the Iowa Association of the Deaf.

Pat Johansen, assistant professor in the Business Administration Department of the School of Management, was elected vice chair of the Maryland Advisory Council for Individuals with Disabilities. She was also selected as a nonvoting board member of the American Deafness and Rehabilitation Association.

Jordan, Rosen discuss parking, SCPI at senate meeting

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and it doesn't taste good to me," Jordan said. "I won't let myself be forced into this position again."

"I think the University and the Parking Committee did everything it was supposed to do as preventive action," said Dr. Lynne Blennerhassett, a professor in the Psychology Department who represented the faculty on the Parking Committee until she resigned from the committee last week.

"I agree with Dr. Blennerhassett," said Jordan. "The committee has been wonderful."

Jordan added that he would be meeting with the Parking Committee Oct. 19 and that he would appreciate faculty attendance. At the senate's request Dr. Nancy Kensicki, a professor of English, agreed to attend the meeting.

Dr. William Marshall, professor and chair of Administration and Supervision

and chair of the University Faculty Senate, and Dr. Rosen reported that they had a "long and productive" meeting with the six faculty raters for the SCPI, all of whom had sent official letters of resignation to Marshall, citing the lack of administrative support for the raters such as release time from classroom teaching, the long hours they must devote to evaluations, proper training, and for video equipment for the individual raters. Some letters also expressed the raters' concern that their ratings of a faculty member are used in personnel decisions, particularly in light of Committee A's (Faculty Welfare) recent report on the SCPI, which highlighted problems in the reliability of the test.

"For now, the raters have agreed to get back on the job for the spring semester with the understanding that several things have to happen," said Rosen. Among the changes highlighted were, first, that the raters will be given training the week before winter break begins. Second, raters will be released from teaching one course or will be paid for a teaching overload equivalent to one class. The senate agreed to the overload pay contingent upon the quality of ratings improving. Third, each rater will be equipped with the

video equipment needed to do the job. Fourth, that work will continue with Committee A to improve the SCPI.

Dr. Neil Reynolds, professor and chair of the Psychology Department, proposed that the Faculty Guidelines be amended to require an intermediate rating rather than intermediate plus as the minimum requirement for merit increase, promotion, or tenure. He made the proposal because of the inconsistency of ratings around the intermediate/intermediate plus rating as reported in Committee A's report on the reliability of the SCPI. The senate referred this proposal to Committee A for further review. Reynolds stressed that unless these guidelines are amended by spring, some newer faculty may be dismissed based at least in part on their SCPI ratings.

Reynolds also reported on the Academic Affairs Management Retreat initiated by Dr. Rosen and including several faculty representatives.

Rosen also reported on the retreat and the resulting Vision Implementation Plan (VIP) to begin this spring. A memo calling for nominations of faculty to serve on various task forces related to the VIP went out to faculty last week and will be summarized in *On the Green* Nov. 1.

Classified Ads

Classified ads are printed for Gallaudet faculty and staff. Ads must be submitted in writing in person or by mail to *On the Green*, MSSD, Room G-37. Off-campus phone numbers must include an area code and whether the number is voice or TTY. In compliance with the Education of the Deaf Act of 1992, as amended, payment of \$1 per ad per printing must accompany each ad. The deadline for submitting ads is Friday, 10 days before the desired publication. Ads received Oct. 25-29 will be printed in the Nov. 8 issue.

FOR RENT: Condo, preferably to professional woman, no pets or smoking. Call (301) 552-0279 (TTY) or E-mail SMCLENNON.

FOR SALE: '86 Oldsmobile Custom Cruiser station wagon, silver w/wood trim, 76K mi., heavy duty towing package, new exhaust and radiator, cruise control, all power options, Kenwood AM/FM cassette, Md. inspected, \$5,800/BO; extra long twin adjustable "craft-matic" type bed, like new, \$900 orig., \$450/BO; 20 videotapes (not closed captioned) of original "Star Trek," 2 episodes/tape, \$30/tape. Call Mary, x3536 or (301) 577-1902 (V) after 5 p.m.

FOR RENT: 1-BR condo w/pantry and huge walk-in closet, W/D, scenic development in Rockville, Md., near Grosvenor and White Flint Metro, rent w/option to buy, \$480/mo. Call Vivian, (301) 770-1562 (V) eves./weekends.

Job Openings

Some of the advertised positions may already be filled. The list below includes only new staff and faculty openings and does not represent all jobs available. To get a recorded message describing the complete list, call x5358 (V) or x5359 (TTY).

GROUPS MANAGER: Grounds Services, Physical Plant Department

NURSE PRACTITIONER/CLINIC COORDINATOR: Northwest Campus Student Health Service

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School of Preparatory Studies Assistant Dean Kenneth Epstein congratulates (from left) counselors Madaleine Davis-Shelton and Della Butler from the Counseling and Development Center at SPS and audiologist Mary Ann Kinsella-Meier from the Audiology and Communication Department at SPS for receiving their 10-year service awards.